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August 2, 1983

Mr. Chuck Scarborough
Channel 4, WNBC
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY

Dear Mr. Scarborough:

Several weeks ago we received from your television network three samples of Monokote MK-5 spray insulation, taken from three different construction sites in New York City. These samples were identified as follows: lot 5G2, lot 2D1 and lot 8G1.

Each sample was prepared for electron microscopic analysis in the same manner. An aliquot was first passed through a No. 120-mesh screen for the purpose of separating finer dust from clumps of material. This fraction was then treated with 0.1 molar sulfuric acid to dissolve the gypsum present. After washing and drying, the material was prepared for electron microscopic analysis by the "wipe-out" technique. At least 20 grid openings, on twelve grids, were scanned at 13,000X magnification (a total of from 2 to 3 tremolite fibers were seen for each sample). Their identities were established by chemical and ultra-structural characterization. These fibers represent only a trace of the total mass of the aliquot examined. While the precise quantity of tremolite present in each sample is difficult to measure, it may be estimated to be on the order of ten-thousandths of a percent, or possibly parts per million, by volume.

On the basis of this mineralogical characterization, I would consider these three samples of Monokote MK-5 to be virtually free of asbestiform mineral fiber.

Very truly yours,

Arthur N. Rohl, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Mineralogy

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